

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council
www.dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/misac

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments. Email: shester@mt.gov

Montana News

- **22 DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER FOR THE SUMMIT!!!!**: The Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) is hosting the **Governor's Summit on Invasive Species April 12-13, 2016**, at the Gateway Center in Helena. The event is intended to engage stakeholders in an in-depth dialogue and examination of prevention, detection, rapid response, and management of invasive species in Montana. Registration is \$50 per individual to cover the cost of meals.

A limited number of scholarships are available and must be requested by March 15, 2016. Regular registration closes April 1.

Summit details can be found at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/MISAC/the-governors-summit-on-invasive-species/>

[Click here to register today!!](#)

- **FWP WANTS AUTHORITY to [impound boats at risk of carrying invasive mussels](#) (3/3/16)**

Efforts to protect Montana waterways from the devastating impacts of zebra and quagga mussels are ramping up this spring. Two boat inspection stations in western Montana have already opened, far earlier than in past years. And Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has proposed changes to the rules that would allow officials to temporarily take possession of high-risk boats, or temporarily lock them to their trailers to prevent launching, to ensure enough drying time to kill any mussels on board.

- **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS [Open in Northwest Montana](#) (3/4/16)**

Watercraft inspection stations are opening across Montana as the effort continues to protect lakes and other waterways from aquatic invasive species. The first two stations opened in the Flathead region this week, near Pablo and Browning. The stations are open earlier than usual. Typically, the stations open Memorial Day weekend...

- **MONTANA RESEARCH HELPS Tackle Illegal Walleye Introductions, [Idaho Finds Show Spread in Pend Oreille](#) (3/4/16)**

After some sophisticated laboratory sleuthing, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has concluded that two walleye that were caught from Swan Lake were introduced and not born in the lake. Microchemistry analysis of the inner ear bones (otoliths) of the two fish that were caught during gill net sampling showed that they were not born in Swan Lake. Mark Deleray, the regional fisheries manager, says the fish were released in the lake as part of illegal introduction. Swan Lake is a major link to Flathead Lake and the broader Flathead River system that is home to native bull trout, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act....

- **NOXIOUS WEED PETITION PERIOD.** Petitions for new plants to be added the Montana Noxious Weed List are being accepted until September 31, 2016. Visit agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Weeds/ for more information or contact Dave Burch at 406,444-3140 or dburch@mt.gov

Regional and National News

- **USDA ["Do No Harm"](#) Report** to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) and the National Invasive Species Council
- **NEW PAPER on [factors that limit the spread of New Zealand mudsnails \(NZMS\) in California's Redwood National Park](#)**

NZMS were first documented in Redwood National Park in 2009 in a series of estuaries located at the mouths of multiple streams that drain this park. However, after 5 years, their distribution remained limited to these estuaries. This was bizarre since NZMS are known for rapid spread. Based on previous work in the Yellowstone Area and the Sierra Nevadas, we hypothesized that low specific conductivity and calcium limited their distribution to these estuaries. We conducted laboratory experiments where we placed NZMS in estuary water and in water from upstream tributaries and then manipulated conductivity and calcium concentrations. We found that adult NZMS could survive in all waters, but could only reproduce in waters with high calcium concentration, regardless of specific conductivity. Our results suggest that the low-calcium in Redwood National Park tributaries limits NZMS reproductive output and therefore spread.

These results may be applicable to NZMS distribution limits in your area since NZMS frequently occur in geothermal and spring-fed waters in the MT, WY and ID. Knowledge about calcium concentrations in your waters may provide insight about waters that are more/less vulnerable to NZMS invasion. Perhaps this research also provides insight into the recent flashiness (last 8 years of declining abundance in many areas) of NZMS in this regions? Finally, our results also suggest that techniques that limit calcium in streams may provide managers with the ability to control NZMS invasions.

- **ECONOMICS OF [Invasive Species Management](#) (2/18/16)**

Around the world, battles are being fought to protect native wildlife and ecosystems, property and people's livelihoods from animal invaders. Because the resources to fight these invasions are limited, natural resource agencies must prioritize their prevention, management and eradication efforts. So how do you decide where to concentrate your efforts? Do you go for large charismatic species, such as Burmese python and feral swine, to catch public attention or for the more elusive, but no less damaging species? Do you expend resources on prevention and early detection or resolve to mitigate existing damage?

Other

- **USDA INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:** <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/toolkit/grantsusda.shtml>
- **WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL Mid-year Teleconference.** Wednesday, March 16 at 2 MST. Contact Leah Elwell for more information: leah@stopans.org
- **AIS GRANT PROGRAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:** The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is offering grants to local governments for the prevention, control, and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Applications are due March 15, 2016. Visit dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species for more information and for application materials.
- [AIS SPECIALIST POSITION at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#) Closes March 18, 2016.

For more information about MISAC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/MISAC>

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